

Program: Frank Pabst – “The Legacy of Lake Champlain — 400 Years of History”

Frank Pabst brought quite a bit of humor and history with him during a lively presentation about Lake Champlain.

The author of “Cannons and Anchors” and former Captain of the *Juniper*, Brooklyn-Born Pabst was one of the first people around here to foresee the value of Lake Champlain as a depository of history and as an asset for tourism. He and his diving team have collected an impressive sample of relics from the bottom of the lake that tell stories of landmark battles during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

He was also instrumental in donating quite a bit of his time and resources towards raising the 2,000-pound Confiance anchor from Lake Champlain. Mr. Pabst provided some background on the famous Battle of Plattsburgh and how the shooting off of the Confiance anchor was pivotal towards the famous victory that helped turned the tide win the War of 1812.

Mr. Pabst went on to recount some more about the history of Lake Champlain. He noted the interesting history of canal barges that would ply the waters of Lake Champlain and then enter the canals to be towed by mules until the invention of the steam engine. The barges would haul cargos of steel, iron, apples and potatoes and granite. He noted that the foundation of the Brooklyn Bridge was laid with granite quarried in Willsboro and the cables were made with iron from Lyon Mountain.

He also told some stories of the Prohibition era and how some families in the North Country may attribute their wealth to bootlegging on Lake Champlain. Mr. Pabst recounted a story of a barge, led at the help by Captain Goodsoul, that had a cargo load of live eels. The authorities boarded the boat and stuck a pole through the cargo and heard a “clink.” They made the Captain dump the load of eels to reveal a significant cargo of whiskey.

Mr. Pabst will be celebrating the Quadricentennial by taking the helm of the refurbished *Day Peckinpaugh* on Lake Champlain. He asked the Rotary Club members to join him in participating at the Quadricentennial. For more information on some local events, visit:

<http://www.clinton.edu/Quadricentennial>

Questions:

What was the most interesting thing you have found?
Mrs. Mabel Smith Douglass, in Lake Placid back in 1963. She had a rope tied to her neck anchored by a 50 lb.

weight. The State Troopers ruled her death a suicide, but he still thinks it was a murder.

What was your most perilous encounter?

Having a Coast Guard Inspector come aboard the *Juniper*!

He also mentioned running aground in Valcour Island while piloting a group of Parents without Partners of women and their children.

Are there any working tugboats still on Lake Champlain? He noted the there is still one, the *Miss Piggy*. *Any stories he can share about the Juniper?* Not in mixed company!

In all your years on Lake Champlain, have you ever seen Champy?

I’ve seen some monsters in my days, but no Champy.

There have been reports of Sturgeon up to 8 feet found with Lamprey on them. It is a deep lake over 131 miles long; there can be quite a few things down there!

Where was the US Navy Started?

This is still a disputed fact, but Benedict Arnold formed what would become the US Navy in Whitehall (many contend the Navy began in Boston).

This Week

The Small Gifts Committee presented checks to the Boy Scouts of America and to the Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Committee at Clinton Community College.

Reminder that the Paul Harris Fellow dinner will be held on Friday, May 29 at the Valcour Conference Center.

Rotary Radio Day is next Wednesday! A special shout out to Chuck Paepke for leading the Noon Club in sales. — Currently sales for both clubs are above \$10,000 – Let’s sell a few more and top last year’s sales! There will be a pre-Rotary Radio Day meeting on Monday, April 6, at 4 p.m. at Northern Insuring. Please help, if you can lend a hand!



Captain Frank Pabst (right) told Rotarians that the *Day Peckinpaugh* (left), a motorized canal boat that traveled from the Great Lakes to New York Harbor in the early 1900s, will ply the waters of Lake Champlain this summer as part of the Quadricentennial Celebration.

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Meetings
Wednesdays 12:15 p.m.
Elks Club, Plattsburgh

June 5 –7 is the Fishing Tournament. Please see President Elect Bonnie Black if you can help with this event.

Marty Mannix announced that the Rotary Golf tournament would be held on Wednesday, June 10. More info to come.

A special thanks to Cornelia Forrence and Ellen Bouchard for bidding on the Butcher's Block Gift Certificates. Kevin Killeen raffled these off in record time, providing us with a little more money in the kitty for Radio Day!

President Steve noted that Rotarian Keith Tyo has again ratcheted up the best Rotary website in the nation. It now includes the weekly duty sheet linked from the homepage. So if you need to know if you are greeting, giving a blessing or a new member talk, visit www.plattsburghrotary.org. You can also go to the website to find the nomination form to nominate a fellow Rotarian or someone from the community for the Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Guests: Alice Church from the Transportation Museum (Bob Parks); Mary Ann Weiglihofer, Librarian at Clinton Community College (Priscilla Hammond from the Sunrise Club);

Visiting Rotarian: Priscilla Hammond, Plattsburgh Sunrise

Happy Thoughts:

- Jack Dee said John Seiden and Bill McBride are great Rotarians. Bill McBride donated lift tickets for Whiteface Mountain last week, and John Seiden was nice enough to purchase them even though he doesn't ski.
- Bonnie Black announced that her daughter, Kim, was accepted into the Masters Degree Program at Brooklyn College.
- Ellen Bouchard invited any new Rotarians to join the Roducky Derby Team.

50/50: The pot is up to \$3,158, and Ita Bullard picked the Four of Hearts. Close! We are going for the Ace of Spades. There are 18 cards left and two jokers left, each worth \$50!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

2009	
April 8	Rotary Radio Day
May 2	District 7040 Assembly
May 29	Paul Harris Dinner
June 5-7	24th Annual Fishing Classic
June 10	Rotary Golf Tourney
June 21-24	RI Convention in Birmingham, England

2010	
June 20-23	R I Convention in Montreal

ON-LINE MAKEUP:		www.rotaryclubone.org
NEARBY MAKE UP LOCATIONS:		
Mon.	Burlington	12:10pm Wyndham Hotel
	Canton	12:15pm Best Western
	Ottawa	12:30pm Ottawa Marriott Hotel
Tues.	Plattsburgh Sunrise	7:30am Elk's Club
	Saranac Lake	7:30am Hotel Saranac
	Massena	12:15pm Elk's Lodge
	St. Albans	12:15pm Masonic Temple
	Montreal	12:30pm Holiday Inn-Pt. Claire
	Grand Isle	6:00pm So Hero Congregational
Wed.	Middlebury	7:15am Rosie's Restaurant
	Albany	12:15pm Wolferts Roost Ctry Club on Van Rensselaer Blvd.
	Tupper Lake	12:15pm Pine Grove Restaurant
	Potsdam	12:15pm Sergi's Banquet Hall
	Watertown	12:15pm Best Western Carriage House
	Chateaugay	6:15pm Leonard's Cherry Knoll Rest.
	AuSable Forks	7:00pm Ambulance Hall (no meal)
Thurs.	Williston	7:15am Will Federated Church
	Lake Placid	7:30am Howard Johnson's
	Watertown AM	7:30am Best Western Carriage House

Upcoming Programs:

April 8 - Dan Stewart
Commission on Corrections

April 15 - Bruce Delventhal along Plattsburgh Coaches
SUNY Athletic Programs

April 22 - Steve Engelhart, AARCH
What to Do With the Crown Point Bridge

Programs/Duty Roster:
www.plattsburghrotary.org/plattsburgh/memberduties.asp



THE ROTARY CLUB
P.O. Box 86,
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
On Lake Champlain
www.plattsburghrotary.org
Charter Granted: April 1, 1926

FIRST CLASS